

WE CLAIM:

1. A software architecture for installing an application on a local computing system, comprising:

a component configured to obtain manifest metadata about the application for the purpose of installing the application on the local computing system; and

an application programming interface to access the component.

2. The software architecture recited in claim 1, wherein the component is further configured to retrieve from the manifest a set of information sufficient to describe the application.

3. The software architecture recited in claim 1, wherein the application programming interface receives a parameter that identifies the application.

4. A software architecture for installing an application on a local computing system, comprising:

a component configured to query the local computing system to determine whether a platform necessary to the application is present on the local computing system; and

an application programming interface to access the component.

5. The software architecture recited in claim 4, wherein the platform comprises one or more software modules upon which the application depends that are not a part of the application.

6. The software architecture recited in claim 5, wherein the platform further comprises one or more software modules that cannot be installed as part of the installation of the application.

7. The software architecture recited in claim 4, wherein the platform is identified in an application manifest associated with the application.

8. The software architecture recited in claim 4, wherein the component is further configured to verify a version associated with the platform.

9. The software architecture recited in claim 4, wherein the component is further configured to abort the installation of the application if the platform is not present.

10. The software architecture recited in claim 9, wherein the component is further configured to return error information in conjunction with aborting the installation of the application.

11. The software architecture recited in claim 10, wherein the error information comprises identification information about which platform was not present on the local computing system.

12. A software architecture for installing an application on a local computing system, comprising:

a component configured to determine whether the application is authorized for installation on the local computing system; and
an application programming interface to access the component.

13. The software architecture recited in claim 12, wherein the determination of the authorization comprises determining whether the installation of the application exceeds a trust level associated with a source of the application.

14. The software architecture recited in claim 12, wherein the determination of the authorization comprises determining whether the installation of the application violates a privacy policy associated with the local computing system.

15. The software architecture recited in claim 12, wherein the determination of the authorization comprises determining whether the installation of the application violates a license associated with the application.

16. The software architecture recited in claim 12, wherein the component is further configured to generate a set of authorization parameters for the application if the application is authorized for installation.

17. The software architecture recited in claim 16, wherein the set of authorization parameters comprises at least permission grants, privacy policy guarantees, and license keys.

18. A software architecture for installing an application on a local computing system, comprising:

a component configured to determine if a version of the application already exists on the local computing system, and if not, to download at least one resource associated with the application from a remote location; and
an application programming interface to access the component.

19. The software architecture recited in claim 18, wherein the resource is sufficient to launch the application.

20. The software architecture recited in claim 18, wherein the component is further configured to replicate the application to a temporary storage location at the local computing system.

21. The software architecture recited in claim 18, wherein the component is further configured to commit the downloaded at least one resource to storage on the local computing system and is made available for binding.

22. A software architecture for installing an application on a local computing system, comprising:

a component configured to execute the application on the local computing system after a successful determination that any necessary platform for the application is present on the local computing system and sufficient resources to launch the application are present on the local computing system, the resources being associated with the application; and

an application programming interface to access the component.

23. The software architecture recited in claim 22, wherein the component is further configured to abort execution of the application if the application is not authorized for execution on the local computing system.

24. The software architecture recited in claim 22, wherein execution occurs in a secure execution environment.

25. The software architecture recited in claim 22, wherein execution occurs in a separate process from a calling entity responsible for the installation of the application.

26. The software architecture recited in claim 22, wherein execution occurs in the same process as a calling entity responsible for the installation of the application.